

**Minutes of Proceedings
Regular Board Meeting
La Feria Utilities Board
Tuesday, August 13, 2013**

Be it known that the Board of Directors of the City of La Feria Utilities Board met in regular session on **Tuesday, August 13, 2013, at 5:15 P.M.** in the City Commission Meeting Room, 115 East Commercial Avenue, La Feria, Texas 78559. The purpose of said meeting was to consider and take action on those items of Utilities Board business as was duly posted by agenda in accordance with the State Open Meetings Law. The following Board Members were present at said meeting:

Mr. Adolfo Lopez	Chairman
Ms. Betty Jo Dunlap	Vice Chairman
Mr. Ralph Muse	Board Member
Mr. Ovidio Saldivar	Board Member

Absent: Mr. Steve Brewer Mayor/Ex-Officio Member

The following staff members were present at said meeting:

Mr. Sunny K. Philip	City Manager
Ms. Maria Chavero	Finance Director
Ms. Irene Szedlmayer	Planning and Community Dev. Director
Ms. Paula Rodriguez	Capital Projects Coordinator
Ms. Olga Oberwetter	City Secretary

There were no other persons present at this meeting.

At 5:17 P.M., Board Chairman Mr. Adolfo Lopez asked all present to rise and recite aloud the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. After this was done, Mr. Lopez declared that a quorum of the Board was present and called the meeting to order.

**REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LA FERIA UTILITIES BOARD HELD
ON TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2013**

After review of the minutes, Ms. Betty Jo Dunlap moved to approve the minutes of proceedings of the regular meeting of the La Feria Utilities Board held on Tuesday, July 9, 2013 as presented in written form. Mr. Ovidio Saldivar seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the Board.

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2013

Finance Director Ms. Maria Chavero reviewed the financial reports for the month of July 2013 with the board, reviewing both the monthly and year-to-date figures. Ms. Chavero then reviewed the Performance Indicators for the month. After review and all questions answered, Board Chairman Mr. Adolfo Lopez announced that the reports would be filed for audit.

BUDGET WORKSHOP FOR CITY OF LA FERIA WATERWORKS AND SEWER SYSTEM BUDGET FOR FY 2013-2014

Finance Director Ms. Maria Chavero reviewed highlights of the budget with the Board and said staff is still working on the budget. There is no proposed increase in rates for water and sewer. Ms. Chavero said the City is expecting an increase in consumption and new accounts. Ms. Chavero said grant administration funds (approximately \$170,000) from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the Water and Wastewater Improvements Project should be coming in the new fiscal year and that would offset expenses. The construction of the projects would bring in the funds under capital outlay. Ms. Chavero discussed the expenses for the new fiscal year. She said there is an 11% increase in medical insurance premiums for employees; however, the City has gone out for bids on this and is hoping for a better rate. There is a 4% increase in operating expenses due to the increases in chemicals, and any other items over which the City has no control. The proposed increase in pay for employees is anywhere from 1% to 3%. The Capital Outlay projects are funded through the TWDB. Ms. Chavero said that staff is open for suggestions and input from the board members. Board Chairman Mr. Adolfo Lopez inquired about the need for amendments to the current budget. Discussion followed on various line items. Ms. Chavero explained that the solar panels have not provided the savings that were expected in the utilities; there is approximately a 10% savings. City Manager Mr. Sunny K. Philip explained that staff will seek expert advice on the solar panels. He explained that this is a preliminary budget and staff would present a budget amendment for this fiscal year and the new proposed budget at the next meeting. There was no action needed on this item.

PUBLIC HEARING – CITY OF LA FERIA WATERWORKS AND SEWER SYSTEM BUDGET FOR FY 2013-2014 AND WATER AND SEWER RATES

Board Chairman Mr. Adolfo Lopez declared the public hearing on the budget open at 5:55 P.M. There were no persons present at the meeting, so there were no comments. Chairman Lopez declared the public hearing on the budget closed at 5:55 P.M.

REPORTS BY STAFF AND DISCUSSION WITH THE BOARD

- **Water and Wastewater Systems Improvement Project**
City Manager Sunny K. Philip reported the following:
 - Water and Wastewater Systems Improvement Project – Most of the items were covered under the Budget Workshop item. The City has finalized the water meter project and is moving forward on that. Staff has submitted a set of plans to TWDB. City staff and the engineers are meeting to address any comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board Chairman Mr. Adolfo Lopez declared the public comment session open. No one signed up to speak before the board, so Mr. Lopez declared the public comment session closed.

ACTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Mr. Ralph Muse moved for adjournment of the meeting. Mr. Ovidio Saldivar seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous vote of the Board.

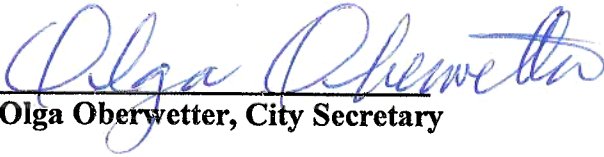
ADJOURNMENT – BOARD CHAIRMAN

Board Chairman Mr. Adolfo Lopez adjourned the meeting at 5:59 P.M.

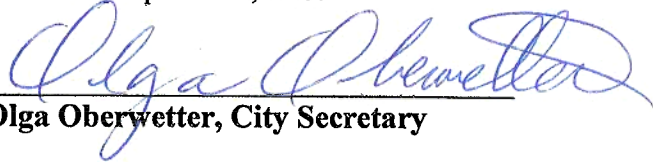
APPROVED:


_____ **Adolfo Lopez, Chairman**

ATTEST:


_____ **Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary**

These minutes were prepared and filed with the City of La Feria as official record of the Utilities Board at 12:10 PM on September 8, 2013.


_____ **Olga Oberwetter, City Secretary**

